

So. Mex. - Jan 20, 74 P.M. WXXI.

IS THE ENERGY CRISIS REAL?

Eph. 1:19

My subject tonight is something that has certainly been on the minds of every one of us. Today, America lives under the shadow of what may well become the most serious crisis we have faced in many years.

In his New Year's Eve broadcast, Billy Graham stated that the situation in the world today was indeed at a crisis point. In speaking in terms of the nations he had visited, and contacted - and he gave a great warning against internal corruption and internal collapse.

We are conscious of the fact that filling stations are closing up on Sundays. And according to one report, 4300 gas stations have closed up permanently in the past few days.

We all are aware that the speed limits have been set at 55 MPH on all the highways. And this could well save a lot of lives in 16 states - the death rate was down 19%. And in other states, it had gone down 2%. Of course the percentages have really not had time to be compiled nation-wide. Perhaps, this will be a blessing and save many lives.

Airlines are changing their schedules - consolidating their flights.

Business and industry are struggling to find fuel to operate on. Business men are saying that they have enough fuel to operate just a few days. And they have to keep scrambling to find fuel to keep open the daylight

shift.

We have changed from the regular time to Daylight Saving Time which has been in effect now for a few days.

There are new regulations coming out almost daily about setting the heat 6 degrees below the operating temperature.

Britain is staggering under the pressure of the gasoline shortage, and the power failure. Some of their factories are being switched to a 3 day work week. And they are expecting unemployment to go up as high as 30% nation-wide before the crisis is over.

Now in the face of this crisis, we are asking - who is to blame. Everyone is looking for an escape goat. As one fellow said, I'll tell you, it's those Arabs over there. They are the ones that did this to us. They won't give us their oil.

Now other people are saying that it is an (international conspiracy) of all these multi-national companies. This oil consortium, that is really more powerful than any of the governments of the world. They are just using us to make profits and prices increase.

Other people see this as a (conspiracy of the (Communist) world to wreck the economy of the free world). Now that is not too far exaggerated - Communism would be happy is it could wreck the free world.

Then there are the (politicians) the Democrats are blaming the Republicans. The Republicans blame the Democrats. And then both parties get together and they blame the President.

With good hind-sight people sit around and say what the leaders should have done. Like after a football game on Monday everybody can become a quarterback. And know why the game was lost last Saturday.

Now Simmon says people are asking him the question - is there a real energy shortage.

Another high man in government said, I'm not certain myself that there is. He says we are drowning in oil. That big industry has plotted with the government, to bring about this crisis.

Now while many people doubt the accuracy of the data that comes in, Exxon, the other day reported that their supplies were about equal to that of December a year ago. And other oil companies have had similar records submitted. Of course, director Simmon said there is no doubt in my mind that we indeed have a serious shortage.

Ralph Nader, the consumer advocate, says the real energy problem is unarmed robbery by oil companies, and with government support - the world is literally drowning in oil.

He goes on to state that everything that has happened in the name of the energy crisis has been to the advantage of the major oil companies.

Geologists say that less than 25% of the oil reserves have been discovered in the world. So this being true, is there a real energy crisis.

Senators are saying that letters are coming in by the hundreds. That perhaps most people doubt the existence of the energy crisis.

One Senator in N.E. said people in his State pay 16¢ gal more for gas than

President's speech yesterday - Energy Scarcity is Real! He said we would have pay \$1 per gal.
Things helped relieve shortage: Warmer weather, Govt. allocations, Daylight Savings time, Sacrificed by all the people -

People have a feeling today that they are trying to manage the energy price through price mechanism.

Now while all of this is going on, we discover that they are printing up ration stamps and tickets and getting ready perhaps for the use of those in the next few months, and they will be put out.

Suggestion for the President:

Now when they go to rationing fuel and cutting back, it seems to me that the proper place to begin would be with the brewery's - these unnecessary industries. Close them down. And that would cut down on a lot of drinking.

We have been very loose and given to spend thrift here in our nation. We have wasted a lot of natural resources. There is no question about it. I think the whole world is guilty of this. Guilty of wasting the resources for profit and material gain. We have over-drawn on the resources and there might be no way out except tightening up on the belt. And waiting awhile. You know America has 6% of the world's population. We have been consuming from 36-40% of the world's natural resources. And we cannot really keep going at this pace forever. There may be an accounting time before us.

There are some lessons that we may learn. Out of this energy crisis - if we stop and listen, God may be trying to speak to us. We are going to have to learn something about self discipline.

We are going to have to learn again from the teacher of sacrifice and hard-ship. Somehow we learn and we grow under hard and difficult times - more so than when it is easy and prosperous. Perhaps we are in for a teaching period here. And God may be going to give us a lesson.

Another lesson that we ought to learn is the matter of thanksgiving and

gratitude. We take things for granted. America has been rich. We just assume that we are privileged people. And God is going to shower on us all the goodness of the earth. To the exclusion of everyone else. One of these days, we are going to come back and say - God, we thank you for the goodness to us. We have been privileged, we have been so blessed. And we want to accept our responsibility.

✓ Another thing we are going to have to learn is our priorities. We are going to have to discover what really is important in life after all. Are the physical comforts and the animal pleasures of the flesh in life. Are these things the things that make life worthwhile.

Is it really important that I drive my car 85 miles an hour down a highway. Instead of 55 or 30 MPH.

Is it really important that I sit in my living room with the heat at 75 or 80 instead of 65. Wearing a few more clothes. What really is important.

Is it my physical warmth and well being. My comfort and my luxury. Is this something that is the most important thing that takes place, in my life.

Now the ability to cope in my capacity to face these issues and the real problems of life - I think a lots of us are going to think - now what really is important. Some rationing tickets and coupons to buy gas - is that important. Is it important that I go out for a joy ride. Or that I get out and walk and enjoy the things of nature.

Now you are going to be faced with these choices - of which is more important. Your Saturday night recreational activity with your automobile, or is it your